

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable upon the occurrence of a certain event, the system comprising:

a reactant reservoir including at least one chamber for holding a reactant chemical, the reactant reservoir in fluid communication with at least an area proximate at least one surface of said data storage device; and

an activation device, coupled to said reactant reservoir and responsive to at least one event, for causing at least a portion of the reactant chemical to flow from the reactant reservoir into the at least an area proximate at least one surface of said data storage device, thereby destroying the stored data.

2. The system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 1, wherein the reactant chemical has a first part and a second part which when combined are activated.

3. The system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 1, wherein the reactant

reservoir is an aerosol reservoir that sprays the reactant chemical as a mist into the at least an area proximate at least one surface of said data storage device.

4. The system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 1, wherein the certain event is selected from the group consisting of removal of the data storage device from a host computer, removal of data storage device from a primary power circuit, detected movement of the data storage device from its resting point, a certain number of detected unsuccessful login attempts, an infrared signal sent from an infrared controller, a remote transmitter signal sent from a remote transmitter, a cellular signal sent from a cellular telephone, a wireless transmitter signal sent by a wireless transmitter, a keyboard signal sent from a wired controller, detected physical tampering with the data storage device, detected loss of power from the primary power circuit and backup batteries, a command sent through an Internet, a key command sequence entered from the keyboard, a voice command through a voice recognition system, a biometric signal, an incorrect biometric signal, and detected temperature outside a range of temperatures.

5. The system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 4, further including an event interface, coupled to said activation device, for establishing selected predetermined criteria for said at least one event.

6. The system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 5, wherein the selected predetermined criteria include a countdown time before the reactant chemical flows from the reactant reservoir.

7. The system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 1, wherein the reactant chemical is applied on at least one surface of the data storage device.

8. The system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 7, wherein a chemical supply line is operatively mounted between and in fluid communication with the reactant reservoir and at least one nozzle proximate the at least one surface of said data storage device.

9. The system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 1, wherein the reactant chemical applied to the data storage device corrodes it, thereby destroying the stored data.

10. The system for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 1, further including a stopper device for controlling the flow of the reactant chemical from the reactant reservoir.

11. A method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable upon the occurrence of a certain event, the method comprising the acts of:

providing a reactant reservoir including at least one chamber for holding a reactant chemical, the reactant reservoir in fluid communication with at least an area proximate at least one surface of said data storage device;

providing an activation device, coupled to said reactant reservoir and responsive to at least one event;

receiving a signal to commence the destruction of the data contained on the data storage media; and

responsive to said received signal, causing at least a portion of the reactant chemical to flow from the reactant reservoir into the at least an area proximate at least one surface of said data storage device, thereby destroying the stored data.

12. The method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 11, wherein the reactant chemical has a first part and a second part which when combined are activated and wherein the reactant reservoir has two chambers for holding said first part and said second part of the reactant chemical.

13. The method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 11, further comprising the act of spraying the reactant chemical into the at least an area proximate at least one surface of said data storage device.

14. The method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 11, wherein said act of sending the signal to commence the destruction of the data contained on the data storage media includes sending said signal when at least one of a certain event occurs, and wherein the at least one certain event is selected from the group consisting of: removal of the data storage device from a host computer, removal of data storage device from a primary power circuit, detected movement of the data storage device from its resting point, a certain number of detected unsuccessful login attempts, an infrared signal sent from an infrared controller, a cellular signal sent from a cellular telephone, a wireless transmitter signal sent by a wireless transmitter, a keyboard signal sent from a wired controller, detected physical tampering with the data storage device, detected loss of power from the primary power circuit and backup batteries, a command sent through an Internet connection, a key command sequence entered from the keyboard, a voice command through a voice recognition system, a

biometric signal, an incorrect biometric signal, and a detected temperature outside a range of temperatures.

15. The method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 14, further including the act of providing an event interface, coupled to said activation device, for establishing at least selected predetermined criteria for said at least one events.

16. The method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 15, further including, responsive to said act of receiving said signal, the act of delaying the destruction of the data contained on the data storage media for a predetermined period of time.

17. The method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 16, further including the act of aborting the destruction of the data contained on the data storage media before the reactant chemical comes into contact with the storage device.

18. The method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 17, wherein the aborting

act is performed before the expiration of the predetermined period of time.

19. The method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 11, further including the act of applying the reactant chemical on at least one surface of the data storage device.

20. The method for rendering data stored on a data storage device unrecoverable according to claim 11, further including the act of providing notification that the destruction of the data contained on the data storage media has commenced.